

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES VISION STATEMENT, JANUARY 2018

STUDENT CENTERED, FACULTY LED

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon will be a leader among public research universities in preparing students for lifetime success, by:

- Reinventing advising and undergraduate curricula to dramatically improve both academic and career success;
- Rewarding and recruiting faculty who: 1) are excellent scholars seeking solutions to the major social and scientific needs of our time, 2) advance our curriculum, and 3) model for students the modern collaborative workplace.

Our vision derives from and aligns with the ambitious goals the President and Provost have set for excellence, access and experience at the University of Oregon. The College of Arts and Sciences is particularly well poised to advance these UO-wide goals by building on our long-term and recent accomplishments. Over many decades CAS has established a record of faculty-led interdisciplinary, collaborative endeavors targeted toward serving the public good, a record that already distinguishes us among major public universities. And, in recent years, the college has gained tremendous momentum by:

- Developing plans for dramatic changes in student advising throughout the liberal arts
- Raising \$34 million toward a total of \$39 million for a donor- and State-funded campus hub for integrated career/academic advising
- Working to revitalize student interest in language study and the humanities
- Initiating and completing major science lab improvements across the natural sciences
- Collaborating with university leadership to launch the Knight Campus to accelerate scientific impact, an idea proposed by CAS faculty
- Undertaking the most ambitious faculty hiring program in our history

We are poised to undertake a once-in-a-generation transformation. Over the next few years, the College of Arts and Sciences will usher in the next generation of faculty, dedicate new resources to its existing faculty that spur innovation, and profoundly reimagine curricula and advising in ways that will determine the future of the UO for decades to come.

ACHIEVING THE VISION

To achieve its vision, the College will pursue three strategies:

1) Increase the relevance of both advising and curricula to dramatically improve both academic and career success,

2) Target faculty hiring to bring in the next generation of faculty who will create nodes of collaborative faculty excellence that will advance the UO's reputation as a center of research, addressing the critical social issues of our time, while also mentoring our students ,and bringing fresh ideas to renew our curricula, and

3) Significantly increase incentives for faculty and staff to pursue research breakthroughs, curricular and advising innovations, and diversity initiatives that underscore our national leadership and attract new cohorts of top-performing faculty and students.

Strategy 1—Reimagining Student Advising and Curriculum

UO students want to do well—and do good. They feel intense pressure to make the best use of family resources, succeed in their studies, graduate on time, and get jobs (do well); at the same time, UO students are also characterized by a passion for effecting positive change in the world (doing good).

The faculty and staff in CAS will address—and are already addressing—the needs and desires of the modern student by rethinking how we advise, teach, and engage students. By reimagining both advising and curriculum, we will create pathways that guide students toward meaningful and achievable goals while building foundational skills for a rapidly changing world. Students will be able to envision how the core goals of a liberal arts education—critical reasoning, effective communication, collaborative problem solving, and a rich understanding of our complex world—can help them achieve their aspirations.

Specific measures include:

- Envisioning the future of Tykeson Hall and its advising programs. Tykeson Hall ushers in a new era of advising, guiding students to build portfolios of in-demand skills and develop the agility to adapt to the future.
- Rethinking curriculum requirements and pathways. Today's students want to pursue solutions to pressing social challenges while also developing skills that prepare them for the workplace. This requires curriculum that emphasizes the multiple perspectives necessary to understand—and succeed in—our increasingly diverse and global world. CAS is already incentivizing faculty and departments to revise curricula and identify degree pathways—and will increase these incentives in the future.
- Revitalizing language learning. CAS faculty are already working to revitalize language studies through innovative pedagogies, curricular revisions, a greater range of study abroad options, online courses, and new partnerships with the schools of business and journalism.
- Expanding venues for learning. The college will continue to expand the range of venues for student learning, ranging from online programs to more extensive internship opportunities to classes and workshops offered at locations other than the Eugene campus.

Strategy 2—Hiring the Next Generation of Faculty

Hiring priorities will continue to emphasize recruiting superior scholars who will work collaboratively to solve the pressing social and scientific issues of our time, substantially advance the UO's national research profile, and provide exceptional mentoring for our students. Targeted hiring of new tenure-track faculty also is a powerful mechanism for accelerating a reimagined curriculum; a new wave of faculty will bring in fresh ideas and new approaches. Already well underway, this hiring campaign will

result in a turnover of approximately a 40% in faculty positions over just a few years, allowing CAS to pivot in new directions across the entire college. Faculty hiring will emphasize:

- Achieving national prominence: College hiring will focus on building critical mass in fields and subfields that are poised to achieve national and international prominence.
- Maximizing the social and scientific impact of research: CAS will recruit individuals who will work collaboratively to develop solutions that address the major issues of our time.

Strategy 3—Incentivizing Cross Disciplinary Scholarship and Innovation in Student Learning

Continually reinvigorating our teaching and research enterprise is essential to achieving national recognition—and attracting the highest-caliber faculty and students. CAS leadership is already offering increased funds—and is actively pursuing further fundraising—to incentivize current faculty and staff to propose high-impact opportunities that advance our leadership in the following areas:

- Curricular innovations
- Advising innovations
- Diversity initiatives
- Research that addresses societal needs
- Creative collaborations that cross disciplinary boundaries to establish novel approaches to research problems